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M E D I A

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Dear Ted,

Thank you for your letters of February 14 and 16, which arrived earlier this week. I am writing this letter in haste, so I hope you will forgive me if it does not hang together.

It has been an interesting week. I was just talking to Eileen Lundberg. We had a very nice conversation, even though she did threaten to slap me across the face. Yes, quite. We were swapping impressions and thoughts that we've had about you. She said that many jokes were sent to you during your time in Sacramento, and that she and her husband had their work cut out for them collecting new ones. I then told her a joke I heard recently: Three men are captured by a primitive group of people. The leader of the group approaches the captured trio and says, "I have some good news, and I have some bad news. The good news is that we are building a ritual canoe. The bad news is that we need your skins to finish it." He then informs the doomed men that they may choose the way in which they are put to death. The first man asks for poison. It is provided, and he dies. The second man thinks for a moment and says, "I think I would like to shoot myself in head." A gun is procured for him, and he dies. The third man requests a fork. This causes the leader to raise a brow, but he shrugs and a fork is given to the man. He immediately proceeds to stab himself all over until he is slick with blood. "What are you doing?" the leader gasps. With a fixed stare, the man replies, "Fuck your canoe!" It was the curse that caused the threat of corporal punishment. I think it is an interesting joke.

I enjoyed talking with Eileen (I hope the spelling is correct). She is very protective. She called me, to check me out, after a conversation I had with . They ironically accept Waits's epithet "The Bleeding Hearts Club." It was truly a joy to speak with I Eileen. (I did not mention . since you had asked me to keep her name confidential.) The crux of the conversation was an article I suggested they write about you. I thought of it because they have such wonderful impressions of you, and they would like the world to see the opposite side of the coin. I said that I would like that to happen, and suggested they write something, which I would then put together for publication (hopefully in a national publication so that they could also make some money). Eileen said that she would send anything they wrote to you, which will

help cut down on inaccuracies. These people love you, despite everything. They are realistic. They like your ideas. I was very pleased. I think a national TV program should do *their* story. It would be good to have someone other than Mello talk about you in more personal terms (something I have yet to do).

I have asked your friends in Lincoln to help find a non-Lee paper. We shall see. I have your letter on hand when the time comes.

One of Bonnie's assistants will track down the ABA article you requested. Mello told me that he couldn't find it. I would like to tell you something about Mello, but request that you do not use it in any correspondence with anyone. You are already aware of it. Mello is something of a media addict. I think it is harmless. He is what you say he is (Feb. 16; p. 2, ¶ 4). He has told me that he caught Waits in a lie, but he wouldn't specify any further. I think I may have prevailed upon him to cease with the promotion for the time being, and specifically to avoid saying things that tend to suggest a connection to you as a legal adviser. It is not fair to Bonnie. On a similar note, there was a rumor in the press that two lawyers from Serra's office were working for you, but I put that one to bed. People say the damndest things.

I just received a call from _____ She was rather upset by some information related to her by Michael Ulveman. Michael's wife, who is a Danish reporter, talked to Sallinger last night. She got the impression that he had pretty good instructions to the secret cabin. But there is two feet of snow on the ground and not even the superhuman Waits will be able to get to it just now. Ulveman is willing to beat him to it. I really detest Waits.

I have participated in a "Unabomber" discussion group on the Internet. I am enclosing the results. I have tried to be as accurate as possible, but I have caught a few errors, e.g., IQ tests and Waits citations. Anyway, I thought you might be interested. _____ and friends are thinking about joining the group. I have decided to stop posting messages there, since the participants are not interested in a constructive conversation.

More later.

Yours,

Blaise.

PS: I think it might be worthwhile to consider using your own handwriting as an element for the cover of your book (Paul Davis's suggestion). Many people have displayed admiration of the fact that this book was not written on a computer. If you like the idea, please write the title and "by-line" on a sheet of ruled paper. And please let me know if the author name should be given as Ted or Theodore John.